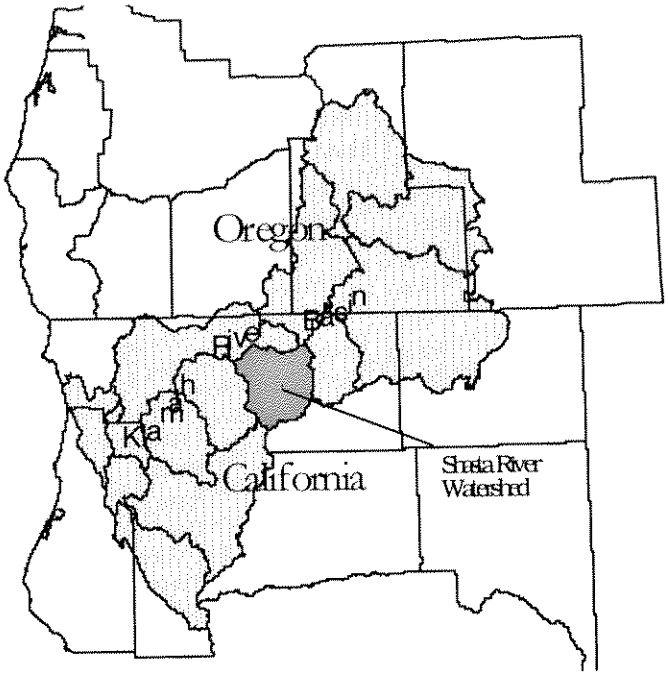
Final Report

Shasta River CRMP Coordinator, 2001



Great Northern Corp.
PO Box 20
Weed, Ca 96094

August, 2002

Cooperative Agreement 11333-1-G008
Project Number 2001-PC-09

Abstract: Summary of efforts and accomplishments of person employed in the part time staff position for Coordinated Resources Management and Planning (CRMP) group working on salmonid and water quality issues in the Shasta Valley in Northern California during 2001.

2001 included community outreach, ongoing meetings with landowners, agencies and political figures, preparation of materials for inclusion in a planned revision of the Watershed Restoration Plan, fish screen fabrication, and the preparation and oversight of restoration projects.

Funding for this work was provided by the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force, with matching funds for this and additional work provided by the California Department of Fish and Game from SB 271 bond act funds.

Introduction:

The Shasta River Coordinated Resources Management and Planning group (CRMP) was started in mid-1991, through the combined efforts of several members of the ranching community, the Siskiyou RCD, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (then Soil Conservation Service). At that time there was no similar organization in Siskiyou County, and the prospect of developing a good working relationship amongst the various landowners and agencies seemed unlikely.

Given the magnitude of the task undertaken—to restore the productivity of the Shasta, while maintaining a healthy local agricultural economy—it was clear that efforts beyond what a volunteer group was capable of were required. Recognizing this, the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force provided funding in FY 1992 for a part time Projects Coordinator to assist the CRMP in progressing from discussion, self-education and planning to project implementation, grant funding and community outreach.

That funding has been renewed at varying levels in FY 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. Partial supplemental funding was made available through a grant from the Calif. DFG for 2000, with funding for additional full time help provided in 2001 and 2002.

Description of Study Area:

The Shasta River and its major tributaries are part of the Klamath Basin (see map on cover), and total hundreds of miles in length, draining an area of approximately 800 square miles.

They flow almost entirely through relatively small parcels of private ranch land. To be effective, any activity aimed at improving water quality for fish or human needs must be done with the active help and participation of a large number of individual owners whose needs, desires and financial conditions vary greatly.

Each of these ranchers has long-standing cultural practices, many of which depend on the river, including irrigation of pasture and hay fields, grazing of riparian areas, and watering of livestock. All of these activities can have a substantial impact on water quantity and quality.

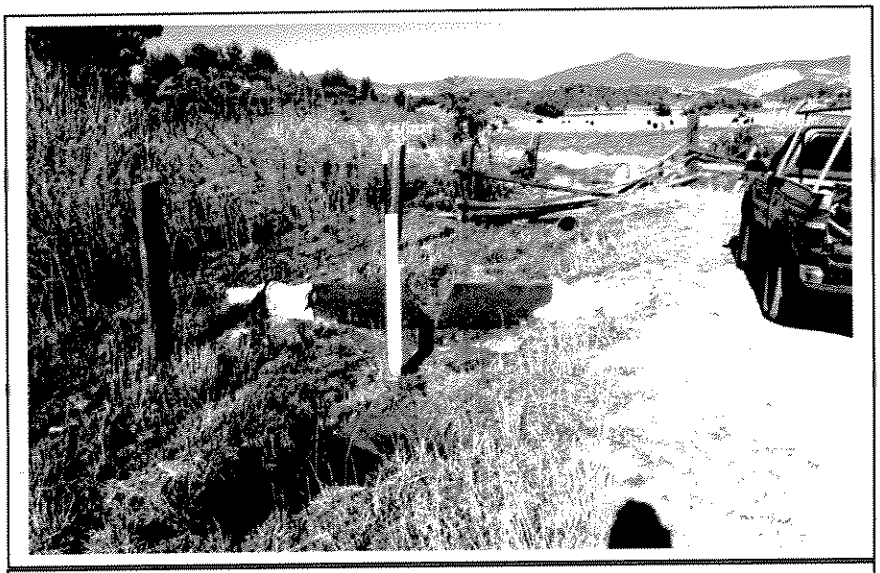
Historically the Shasta River was an important spawning and rearing area for chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead. Records of fall chinook spawners kept since the 1930's show a long decline, from over 80,000 in 1931 to as few as 530 in 1992. Since 1992, numbers have climbed to as high as 13,000. steelhead and coho are likewise no longer present in significant numbers, although actual counts are not available.

Over the last ten years there has been an extensive program of water testing in the Shasta. Results indicate significant problems for cold water fish resulting from high water temperatures and low levels of dissolved oxygen. Additional fieldwork indicates severe problems of fine sedimentation. Other observed but less well documented problems include: blockage of coarse sediment by dams, groundwater withdrawals capable of affecting surface flows, high nutrient levels and consequent turbidity caused by free-floating algae.

The Shasta CRMP coordinator is charged with developing responses to these problems, helping landowners to embrace solutions, securing funding to pay for part or all of the changes proposed, and supervising project implementation.

Methods and Materials:

The Shasta CRMP serves generally as a broad oversight body, with the details of implementation of its goals left to the project coordinator. The coordinator works with individual CRMP members, agencies, and other groups and individuals to develop and implement specific actions that will further the CRMP's goals. In addition, the CRMP Coordinator must be available to respond to requests for assistance from the USFWS, TWG and Task Force, along with state agencies (including DFG and DWR), schools, and other restoration workers.



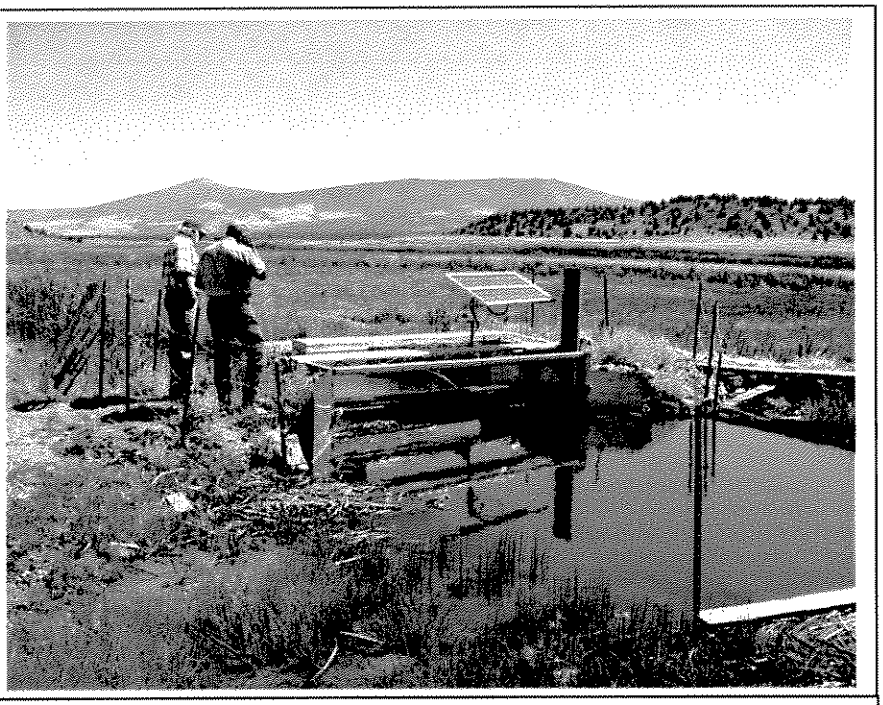
Pre-project development takes a variety of forms, including installation of temporary weirs and water measuring devices as shown here on the Beck Ranch preparatory to designing tailwater capture system.

Information transfer and reporting is frequently accomplished verbally at

CRMP meetings or to individuals, in written form in newsletters and agendas, electronically via email, and photographically. Most residents of the Shasta Valley do not make routine use of computers, so mailings and verbal reporting is the most effective way to communicate with them. Agencies and persons engaged in restoration planning generally all have ready access to computers and the Internet, making electronic data and document transfer their preferred method.

Project documentation has been done using photographs and slides, some of which have also been scanned for use electronically on the Internet or in the Klamath Resource Information System (KRIS).

Post project monitoring and documentation, and responding to needs and opportunities as they arise can require almost anything by way of methods and materials. An engineering autolevel, steel T posts, hacksaw and post driver are used in setting up stream cross section profile locations; Arcview software, plotter and laptop computer were needed to prepare maps and for project tracking and documentation, temperature measuring devices were placed in streams then downloaded for future use, dissolved oxygen meters were utilized in water quality monitoring; camera, scanner, and computer were used for report writing, project documentation, etc.



Richard Christie and Rick Davis inspect first solar powered fish screen in Siskiyou County on the Cardoza ranch at Parks Creek.

Results and discussion of accomplishments:

Successfully meeting the overarching goal of this grant--assisting the Shasta CRMP to continue to make substantial steps towards restoring the Shasta River for salmonids--required a variety of approaches. General activities included□

Providing staff to the Shasta CRMP,
Coordination of fieldwork
Meeting with interested parties, both individually and in groups,
Assisting with planning both within the Shasta Watershed and elsewhere in the Klamath Basin,
Meeting with Task Force and its technical work group,

Responding to problems and opportunities as they arose
Work on restoration planning for Shasta Basin
Provide assistance to writer working on revisions to Shasta Watershed Plan.

This grant included a number of defined tasks to be completed, and specific work products, each of which will be described separately below, followed by a description of some of the more important unexpected opportunities that arose and were acted upon:

Task 1—Continue to keep the public informed with news articles, newsletters and informational materials.

See attached samples of materials developed during the period this funding was in place.

Task 2—Assist with the development of the Shasta Restoration Plan in the format proposed to the Task Force.

See Task 3, below.

Task 3—Meet with the consultant hired to re-write the Shasta Watershed Restoration Plan, and provide all necessary assistance including gathering of data, documents, maps, photos and other information required for the re-writing of the plan.

The Coordinator met several times with the technical writer, along with communicating via email, and delivered to him all readily available background data, electronic files, and pertinent written documents. They discussed the restoration plan needs and goals, and began the re-writing process. While a significant amount of work was done, much more remains to be done. The writer is available during the summers only due to other work constraints, so will resume work during the summer of 2002, with completion planned for the early fall of 2002.

Task 4—Develop restoration projects and prepare funding requests for the Shasta River, including seeking funding for the development of a coarse and fine sediment budget for the Shasta River.

Funding requests prepared during 2001 included:
Cantara Trust:
6 tube screens—funded $16,604
Little Shasta Flashboard Dam Preliminary Engineering Study
Montague Tailwater Capture Pond—funded $26,147
Meamber Ranch Fence—funded $28,800
Rice Planting-funded $38,412
Yreka Ditch Dam modification study—funded $76,000
Calif DFG
CRMP Coordinator-funded $61,497
Frey Tailwater Capture
Hart Fence 2—funded $67,137
Meamber Pipeline
Montague Clean water Project—funded $42,698
Shasta-Klamath Water Transfer Legal Analysis—funded $7383
Coarse Sediment Budget Study

Beck Tailwater—funded $21,932
Hart Fish passage
Hole in the Ground Dam fish passage
Shasta Water Assoc. Pump Efficiency Study
Generic Bioengineered Bank Stabilization
Conifer Planting in Shasta Canyon
Generic Riparian fencing
Tree wrapping to prevent Beaver Damage—funded $3242
Peters Tree Planting
Houghton Tailwater Capture and re-use
Peters, Marianni and Hidden Valley Fish Screens

RWQCB-Prop 13
Yreka Creek Planning, Assessment and Coordination

USFWS & TF
CRMP Coordinator—funded $25,000
Frey Tailwater Capture Pond—funded $8955
Hart Fence—funded $29,797
Meamber Pipeline
Coarse Sediment Budget Study

Calif Dept of Conservation
Computer Upgrade—partially funded $4476

Approximately 31 funding proposals were prepared for a variety of projects. Of these 14 were funded, for a total of $457,800. Funding requests prepared included requests for additional outreach, coarse and fine sediment studies, flow studies, fencing, tailwater capture, etc.

Tim Louie and Tom Louie discuss options for repairs to eliminate fish barrier on Parks Creek, Dec. 2001. Project funded in 2002.

Task 5—Meet periodically with the Task Force and TWG and other groups to improve the understanding of the Shasta Watershed.

Meetings attended included the TF meeting in Brookings in Feb. 01, Yreka in Oct. 01, and Smith R in Feb. 02. A Water Quality Data Gathering Coordination meeting for the Klamath Basin in March 01, numerous meetings with the Yreka Greenway Committee throughout the year, several Klamath Project Relicensing meetings throughout the year, and a meeting with members of Save our Shasta and Scott Valleys (SOSS) in Nov of 01.

Task 6—Re-contact Key landowners along the Shasta River and its tributaries who are not participating in restoration; try to find opportunities for future restoration projects.

This process was ongoing throughout the grant period, both in person and via written materials.

Task 7 Produce at least 4 quarterly newsletters, expand mailing list to include all members of irrigation districts in Shasta Valley. Update internet web site.

Mailing list now contains over 400 landowners throughout the Shasta Valley along with other interested persons. All members of irrigation districts using the Shasta River are included so that they will have an opportunity to participate in restoration related planning and decision-making.

Bioengineered sediment reduction project on the Fiock Ranch near Yreka on the Shasta River. Willow wattles will eliminate bank erosion for about 10 years, allowing stabilizing vegetation to become well established.

Three newsletters were actually produced. Instead of the fourth newsletter, because of the need to reach a wider audience within the entire agricultural and business community to present a proactive approach to the anticipated coho listing, we prepared a Power Point presentation have used it repeatedly throughout the Shasta Valley. This presentation highlighted the array of work done to date, and made explicit mention of each of the many long-standing ranching families choosing to participate in fisheries restoration work. Its goal was to reach out at a critical time (when coho issues were heating up) and provide a graphic alternative to the "just say no" approach that many were pushing for.

In addition to the above, we prepared a pamphlet outlining the background, goals and opportunities the Shasta CRMP represents to local landowners as an additional way to help encourage people to take positive steps to restore Shasta river fishery values.

- See attached examples of typical written materials.

- See web site at: http://www.snowcrest.net/shastacrmp/ and
  http://www.snowcrest.net/shastacrmp/slideshow/hist1.html

Task 8--Hold 4 public meetings

Meetings included a public informational meeting with NMFS in Feb. 01; a Montague Town Hall meeting in September 01, and CRMP meetings in April 01, August 01, Sept. 01, November 01, and Feb. 02. Also a community meeting re: state coho listing in October 01.

Throughout the entire reporting period, coho issues predominated, and kept the entire county in a high state of agitation. Initially the focus was on instream flows in the Klamath River, as the workings of the federal ESA affected the planned and then the actual amount of water released by the Bureau of Reclamation into the Klamath River, and concurrently reduced the amount of water available for irrigation in the Upper Klamath Basin. Severe social and economic dislocations resulted almost immediately, consequences that were widely perceived as evidence of a harsh and uncaring fisheries restoration community. While these impacts occurred in the upper Klamath Basin, the widespread perception was that it would be repeated in the Shasta and Scott Valleys very soon.

Later, as information was released about the petition to list coho under the state ESA, the focus shifted to the more immediate impacts that was likely to have.

Both community-wide public meetings and CRMP business meetings during this period were understandably driven by these two actions. In particular, the CRMP tried to utilize the attention given to the coho issue to generate greater pro-active efforts via the Montague town hall meeting in September 2001, where the audience was composed of Shasta Valley ranchers and farmers, and other Shasta Valley community members suddenly aware of fisheries issues and looking for direction.

Task 9 Assist the CRMP in formulating five year goals and objectives and a ten year Strategic Plan.

No significant progress was made on this task. The intense focus on the state listing of coho pre-empted everyone's attention, and left little interest in anything beyond immediate concerns. This process will have to be revived later, once things have settled down and long-range planning again makes sense to people.

Task 10—Complete progress and Final Report to the Yreka FWO.

Reports included periodic formal oral progress reports to the FWS, a written and oral progress report to the Task Force, and this final report.

Specific Work Products:

1. News articles and 4 newsletters for public education—see above task 1, plus sample materials attached.

2. Proposals to various funding organizations.—see above task 4.

Update website. See website at: http://www.snowcrest.net/shastacrmp/ and at http://www.snowcrest.net/shastacrmp/slideshow/hist1.html

3. Prepare progress and final reports.

Reports included periodic formal oral progress reports to the FWS, a written and oral progress report to the Task Force, and this final report. The written report to the Task Force Is attached.

Highlights of the Year:

See attached report to the TF for highlights of the 2001, particularly for those activities which were not on the list of required tasks and deliverables.

Volunteer Contributions:

As in many previous years, students at Discovery HS work on measuring stream cross sections at the Meamber Ranch. Other students planted trees on the Koon ranch. Citizens from throughout the Shasta and surrounding areas participated in watershed planning events. Citizens from the Yreka Area continued to work actively on the Yreka Creek project.

Volunteers collected pre-dawn dissolved oxygen samples from multiple sites along the Shasta River between March and July.

Estimated volunteer contribution for 2001 is conservatively estimated at $15,042

Summary and Conclusions:

As is occurring in many other watersheds throughout the state, restoration progress continues to be made. The Shasta continues to be an important producer of salmon, as evidenced by the spawner return of fall chinook of over 11,000 salmon in 2000 and 2001. The need for substantial improvement continues, particularly in the form of provision for assured instream flows and temperatures, especially in low-water years. The slow workings of the federal ESA for coho, and the Clean Water Act for TMDLs gave to many the appearance to many of limitless time. At the pace we

have been able to move, we have not been able to get to where we need to be before each of those legislative initiatives and the state ESA have a substantial impact. Prior years lack of funding for outreach and project development continues to restrict the rate of actual on-the-ground improvement to be found in the Shasta.

Funding by the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force continues to be the most long-standing and reliable assurance of continued restoration progress; competing demands for Task Force funds throughout the Klamath Basin severely limits that group's ability to fully fund outreach efforts anywhere in the Klamath Basin, but without their vision and ongoing support little would have been accomplished to date. Supplemental funding is now increasingly available from the California Department of Fish and Game, as is seem in the significant number of restoration projects proposed this year. If this proves to be relatively reliable, the rate of change should slope more sharply upwards.

Summary of Expenditures, CRMP 2001

Salary:	$18,453
Materials	1,600
Operating Expenses	2,447
General Administration	2,500
Total	$25,000

Cost Share and matching funds:

California Department of Fish and Game—Cash Match $15,429

Volunteer Contribution: $15,042

Total Project: $55,471

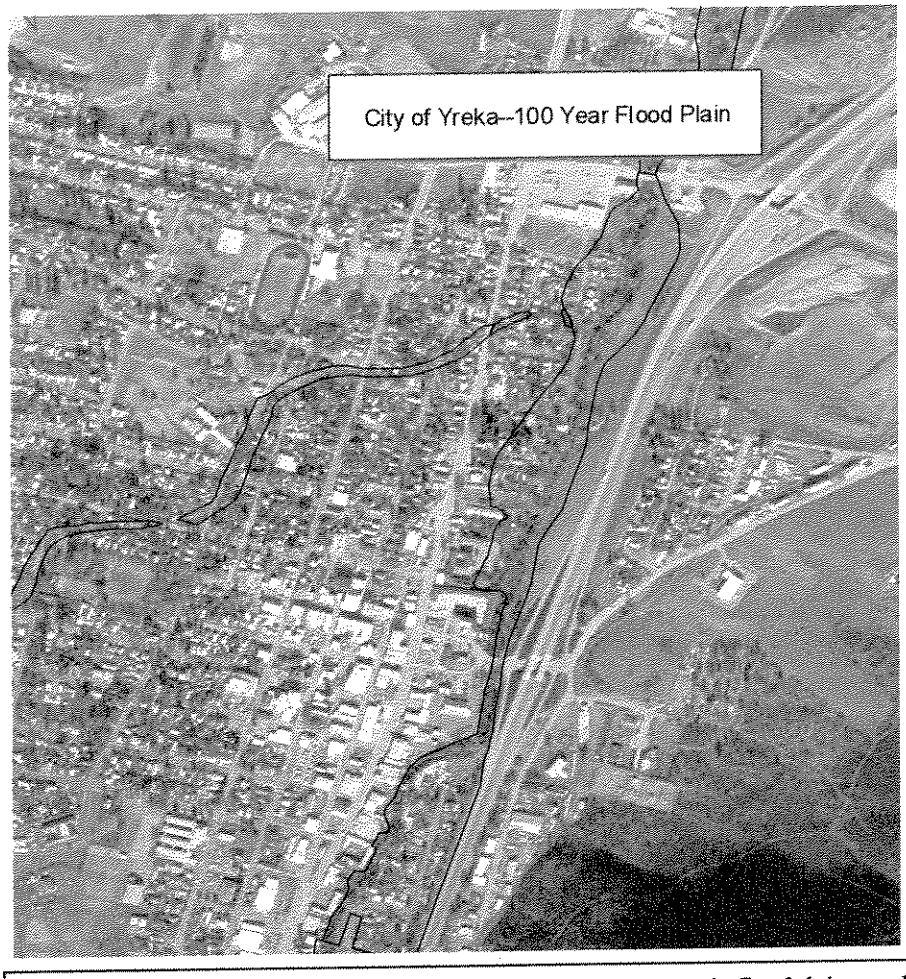
Attachment 1

Highlights of Shasta CRMP Activities for Calendar Year 2001

Planning processes underway:

Work continues apace on the Deas Flow/Temperature model for the Shasta. Temperature data from the mainstem and Parks Creek, is currently being meshed with flow data from five flow gaging locations. I recently collected and sent solar intensity data for the year, along with daily water withdrawal data for the two irrigation districts pumping directly from the river, all of which will be important for the modeling effort. We expect to be able to do some trial runs within a few months. The coming year will let us collect additional data to be used in model refinement and verification, with project completion scheduled for 2003.

Urban streams oriented work for Yreka Creek continues to proceed. We have been working closely with the Yreka Creek Committee, and City of Yreka Staff and consultants, to provide specific language into the nearly completed Yreka General Plan to provide the planning framework to assure that stream protection will not be overlooked in the course of urban development. By including specific language in the Yreka general Plan, we will help to assure that the Yreka Creek Corridor Greenway is supported in future city actions.



This year, both steelhead and coho were spawning in Yreka Creek.

Portion of City of Yreka showing 100 year floodplain. Electronic floodplain overlay prepared by CRMP Coordinator utilizing aerial photos provided by City of Yreka, and hard copy floodplain maps provided by Siskiyou County and City of Yreka. Overlay will help city staff and residents visualize areas at risk of flooding, where greenway could be re-captured to create buffer strip.

Backgrounding, discussion and a field tour was provided for the county natural resources planners and the county's legal consultant delving into the complex problem of ground water/surface water planning in the Shasta Valley, along with the rest of the county.

Work nearly complete on the alternatives to Flashboard Dams study funded by the Task Force. Once complete, it should provide guidance on steps possible to improve fish passage and water quality.

Continue to work with planning related to basin wide flow study.

Prepare materials for and participate in Water sampling meeting called by Mike Deas for all persons working on water quality sampling in Klamath Basin.

Organize community meeting with representatives of Yurok Tribe re water issues.

Ramp up community wide efforts revolving around state coho listing possibility, involving numerous public and private meetings with agencies and individuals

Help city of Yreka incorporate Natural Resources related data into city GIS database.

Prepare materials related to Klamath-Shasta Water Transfer plan.

Discovery H.S. students measuring change over time via stream cross-sections on the Shasta River.

Prepare overview documents of Water usage and flow, temp and fish return overview

Prepare presentation for Fish and Game Commission Meeting in Redding

Data collection and monitoring

Temperature data at all of our historic data collection points.
Dissolved Oxygen data collection at the same locations as last year
Assist DWR in collecting an array of water quality data
Assemble, clean up, enter and electronically save essentially all water temperature data available on the Shasta River for the entire period of record that could be found, going back to about 1950.

Field work planned, underway or completed:

Livestock Exclusion Fencing on the Cowley ranch on over one mile of the Little Shasta is complete, as is ½ mile of fence on the mainstem Shasta on the Rice Ranch. Fencing is funded for an additional 1 mile of the Shasta on the Kuck Ranch. Bioengineered bank protection work has been completed on 1900 feet of bank on the Kuck and Fiock Ranches. A tailwater capture project will begin soon on the Frey Ranch if paperwork can be completed prior to the irrigation season. Another is planned on the Beck Ranch.

Bioengineered bank protection underway on Kuck Ranch on the Shasta River near Montague.

Work on designs, prices and locations for 9 needed fish screens in areas accessible to coho. Prepare multiple funding requests.

Do Pulsed Flows again

Organize volunteer effort to collect pre-dawn DO data again this year. Important for comparisons to last year because of the extremely low water conditions.

Provide overview tour for USFWS staff

Partnrtnerships created/strengthened

Continue assisting the Yreka Creek Committee to expand its vision and area of interest to the entire Yreka Creek.
Work with Grenada Irr. Dist and Shasta Water Assoc. to begin looking at possible impacts of their diversion dams.
Work with City of Yreka Staff on planning related to Greenway and other city GIS efforts that will ultimately relate to better appreciation of fisheries needs.
Meet with and discuss fish screening and fisheries issues with the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee
Establish working relationship with county Agricultural Dept. GIS staff. Provide GIS layers of watershed boundaries and rivers.
Collect freeze, store and ship daily water quality samples to DWR.
Prepare presentation for fisheries conference in Arcata
Work with Sisk. Office of Education to develop appropriate fisheries related projects for students.
Mentor student at Discovery HS working on Cross Section data for senior project.
Continue to periodically attend county GIS committee meetings

Meet periodically with key members of SOSS to provide overview of fisheries issues, data, and restoration work done.
Meet with individual county supervisors to provide background and updates on fishery, water and restoration issues.
Re-connect DWR and BOR to assist DWR in getting additional GOES licenses for planned additional real-time gaging in Shasta Watershed

Attachment 3

Klamath--Shasta Water Substitution Overview

Abstract:

Numerous studies have documented the feasibility of transferring water from the Klamath River to the Shasta Valley for use in irrigation. In the past, these transfers were intended to supplement existing irrigation water already being withdrawn from the Shasta in order to irrigate all farmable land in the Shasta Valley. This new proposal recognizes the need to protect aquatic habitat, and would instead to substitute less critical Klamath River water for irrigation use in the Shasta Valley, and leave the waters of the Shasta River for the benefit of fish and other aquatic organisms, with little or no change in irrigated acreage. Impacts on flows in the Klamath River at Irongate Dam are estimated to be a reduction of 10-15%, with flows restored 13 miles downstream at the confluence of the Shasta and Klamath Rivers.

Background:

Beginning in the early part of the 20th century, a great deal of interest developed in the concept of transferring seemingly excess water from the Klamath River to the flat but dry Shasta Valley for irrigation use. While preliminary investigations showed the idea to have merit, the magnitude of the tasks involved made this a project beyond the capabilities of any individual, and instead served to precipitate the formation of the Klamath-Shasta Valley Irrigation District about 1920.

In 1921, the Klamath-Shasta ID, recognizing the expertise demonstrated by the Bureau of Reclamation in their 1905 project to develop the water supply and distribution network near Klamath Falls, decided to form a cooperative venture with them to thoroughly investigate costs, routes and potential irrigable areas for a project serving the Shasta Valley. The Calif. Department of Water Resources rounded out the project effort. They shared costs, and in 1925 produced an extensive report describing the costs and feasibility of four different routes for supplying water to the Shasta Valley via gravity flow ditches and pipelines.

At the time, the costs of this transfer proved to be much more than the costs of developing winter water storage in the Shasta Valley itself, and the Klamath-Shasta Irrigation District was dissolved. The old organization was then re-formed as the Montague Irrigation District, with plans to build what eventually came to be Dwinnell Dam and Lake Shastina near Weed. Plans for a transfer of water from the Klamath languished, and were eventually forgotten.

In the mid-1950's, the Calif. DWR re-invented the idea of a water transfer from the Klamath River to the Shasta Valley, and did new preliminary engineering studies on feasibility and cost of supplying sufficient water to irrigate all the remaining irrigable land in the Shasta Valley using water to be pumped from the impounded water behind the then-planned Irongate Dam. (See attached pertinent portions of DWR Bulletins 83 and 87). Again, costs exceeded the productive value of water for irrigation, and the idea was forgotten, but not before the Calif. DWR put in place a reserved water right for the Shasta Valley, should the idea ever prove feasible.

Finally, in the mid-1990's, the Shasta CRMP discovered the old studies, and began re-considering the potential of a water transfer from the Klamath. This time, the water would be substituted for existing irrigation supplies, allowing the Shasta River to return to a more free-flowing state. The overall goal was to revive the Shasta River as the most productive salmon bearing stream in the Klamath Basin, while assuring the continued survival of agriculture in the Shasta Valley. Water currently diverted from the Shasta River or its tributaries would be left in the river, and lower quality water from the Klamath would be supplied for irrigation in exchange.

Current Proposed Plans:

Currently, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has determined that a flow of 1000 cubic feet per second at Iron Gate Dam is necessary to provide for juvenile coho habitat in the Klamath River. While a diversion from the Klamath to the Shasta Valley would reduce those flows, from the standpoint of coho that reduction would only occur between Iron Gate Dam and the point where Shasta joined the Klamath, a distance of 13 miles. The Shasta would then return an equivalent or greater amount of water to the Klamath, restoring its flows to target levels.

Currently a net usage of around 100 cfs appears to be taken from the Shasta River mainstem below Dwinnell Dam, with lesser amounts diverted from Parks Creek and the Little Shasta. While a diversion of 10 to 15% of the 1000 cfs in the Klamath at Irongate is not desirable, its impact may be minimal, given the short distance to where the Shasta joins the Klamath (13 miles), and the minimal amount of coho habitat that appears to be present in that stretch. While losses in coho production might occur in the Klamath, those losses should be offset by much greater gains in the Shasta, with its 30 low gradient miles, prolific emergent vegetation, and very high productivity of feed organisms.

Short of a "water war", with ultimate results similar to those seen in Klamath Falls this summer, this proposed transfer seems to be the only way to significantly restore instream flows and fish production to the Shasta River. But, without further investigations, this proposed idea cannot be evaluated. We need to begin those investigations, and, depending on their results, either proceed as quickly as possible, or abandon the idea.

Investigation needs:

1. Investigate the legal status of the DWR "Reserved Water Right" known to exist, and search of any others. Prepare a summary of findings documenting whether or not the legal foundation for proceeding still exists.
2. Lay out the procedures needed to be followed to file for the above reserved water right; describe the characteristics of the legal entity that must be empowered or created to handle the water distribution.
3. Assuming step one proves to have favorable findings, perform necessary preliminary engineering studies to identify the best routes, points of diversion, and points of

delivery to accomplish the new goals of a water transfer, and provide lowest costs in the long run.

4. Thoroughly review water distribution patterns and methods on areas to receive Klamath River water. Develop plans and costs to maximize efficiency of use of applied water, there-by minimizing the amount to be transferred, and simultaneously reducing the production of irrigation tailwater which currently degrades Shasta water quality.
5. Examine the biological costs to the Klamath River of the proposed transfer. Examine also the benefits to the Shasta River and Klamath Basin overall.
6. Concurrent with above studies, inform residents of Shasta Valley (and elsewhere) on the proposal, how it might work, and what its results would be.
7. If all investigations prove favorable, secure local support to proceed.

Steps one and two require qualified legal advice. DWR has recommended that we hire attorneys familiar with water rights law, and thoroughly research the reserved water right issue. The same attorneys should be able to assist with developing the framework of a legal entity to handle water distribution should all other investigations prove favorable.

Steps three and four are the work of agricultural engineers, and could be private sector, or from Calif. DWR or US Bureau of Reclamation. Step five would be done by consulting biologists, or by the NMFS, Calif. DFG, and/or USFWS.

Steps six and seven are the "heavy lifting" that would need to be handled locally by Siskiyou County government, the Resources Conservation District, the Shasta watershed group, and other local organizations.

Conclusions:

Drought and the ESA listings of coho and suckers combined to create demands for water in the Klamath Basin that could not be met. Basin-wide solutions are being sought, but they will either require the investment in substantial new infra-structure, or the retirement of a large percentage of agricultural land in the Shasta Valley and elsewhere, accelerating the tendency already evident for urbanization.

It appears that this water transfer is the only win-win alternative available--a win for fish and wildlife, and a win for agriculture and the local community. Little time is available to accomplish the steps necessary to proceed. We need to begin at once.

Shasta River
Coordinated Resources Management and Planning Committee

PO Box 459, Montague, CA 96064 530-926-2460

Subject: Comments on proposed state listing of Coho Salmon October 29, 2001

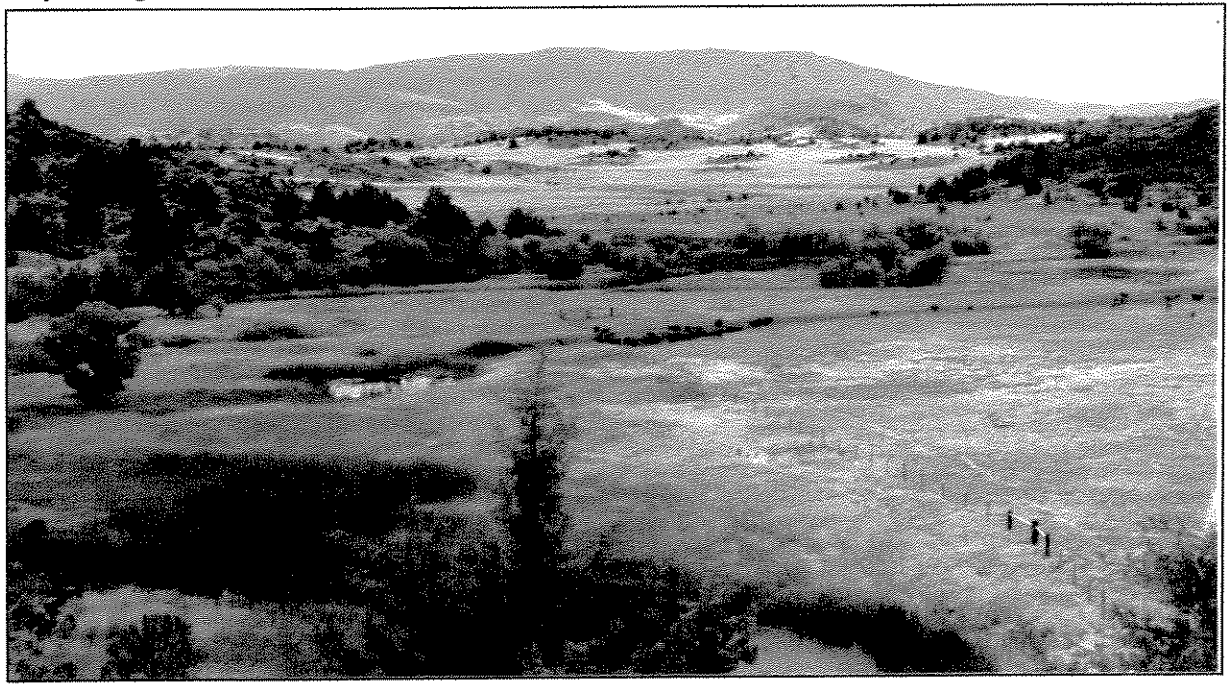
To: The California Fish and Game Commissioners:

We wanted to start with an apology to each of you for the length of this letter. We know the workload of reading material each of you has on this topic will be a tremendous burden. We also recognize that we have probably diverged from the format you ordinarily see of just plain text and strident statements. We sincerely ask you take the time to read this closely, and see if we can find a way to work together for a successful outcome to this very difficult issue.

Since it has been quite some time since we have either written to or spoke to the Fish and Game Commission, we should probably give a little background on ourselves first—the Shasta River Coordinated Resources Management and Planning Committee (CRMP) was formed by the Shasta Valley Resources Conservation District in 1991, with the goal of finding and fixing problems in the Shasta River that were reducing the survival of anadromous fish through voluntary restoration measures. The bulk of the membership of the CRMP came from the agricultural community, in the expectation that agriculture was where the greatest opportunity lay for improvement.

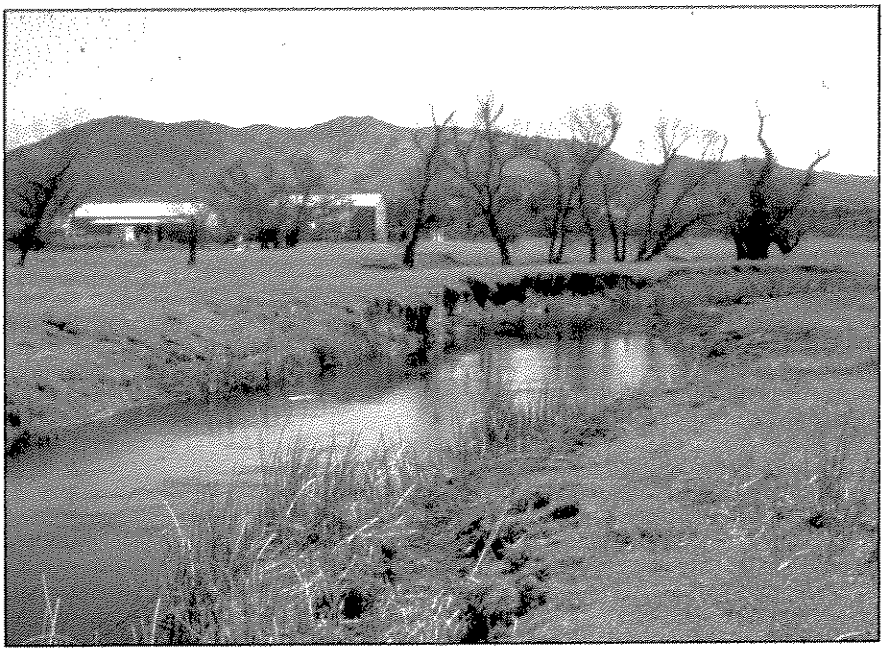
It has been our observation that in California at least, the greatest threat to fish (and wildlife) comes not from farming, nor from ranching, but from creeping urbanization.

From a distance, most of the Shasta Valley appears to be little changed from what it probably was 150 years ago.



Freeman Ranch with riparian zone livestock exclusion fencing, 1997.

Closer up, it's evident that many hard-working people have made their lives in this place, and have worked to give the rest of this country what it seemingly wanted—abundant food, at the lowest possible prices.

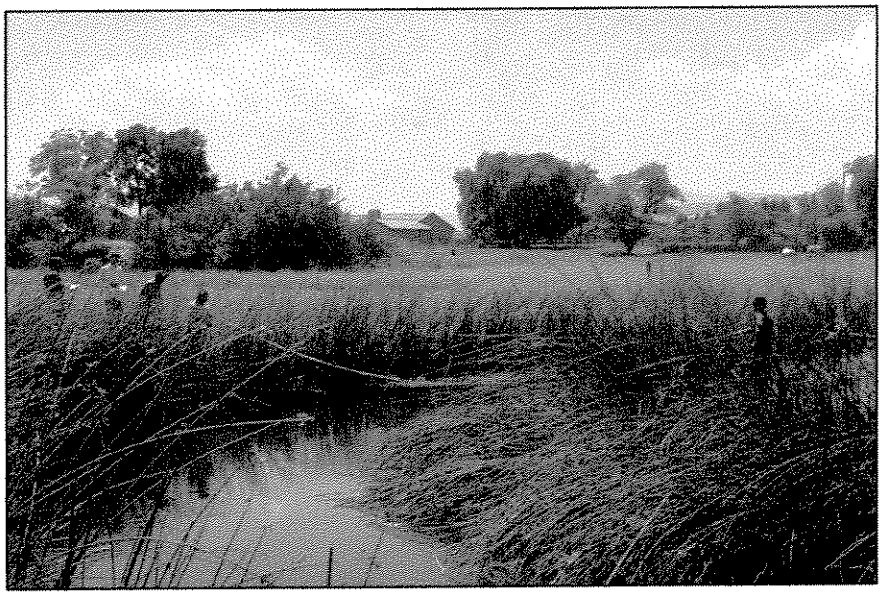


Shasta River on Marion Ranch, March 1992, shortly after purchase.

Unfortunately, working for lowest possible price seldom left much extra for efforts that didn't pay, and our rivers and streams have suffered, although not nearly as much as they seem to have throughout the rest of the state.

Twenty or more years ago, expectations began to change. While society continued to want food crops at the lowest possible price, it also began to demand less tangible items like clean water and abundant fish, items which a private landowner couldn't sell, but all too often only private land could effectively provide. It took time for people in the Shasta Valley to really become aware of this change, even more time to appreciate the need for it—we still had water that was pretty clean, and a lot of fish.

Nevertheless, things began to change, and people who had both the vision and the economic means were able to show what could be done.



Marion Ranch, July 1992, 4 months later with riparian livestock control fences in place.

The Shasta CRMP, representing a multitude of landowners and volunteers, and with the help of state and federal agencies, has managed to work wonders in an otherwise economically depressed area. While grant funding has generally paid the initial costs of fish and water-related improvements, all the long-term costs had to be borne by private landowners, who have received little in return except aesthetic benefits, that their long days of hard work often leave little opportunity to enjoy.

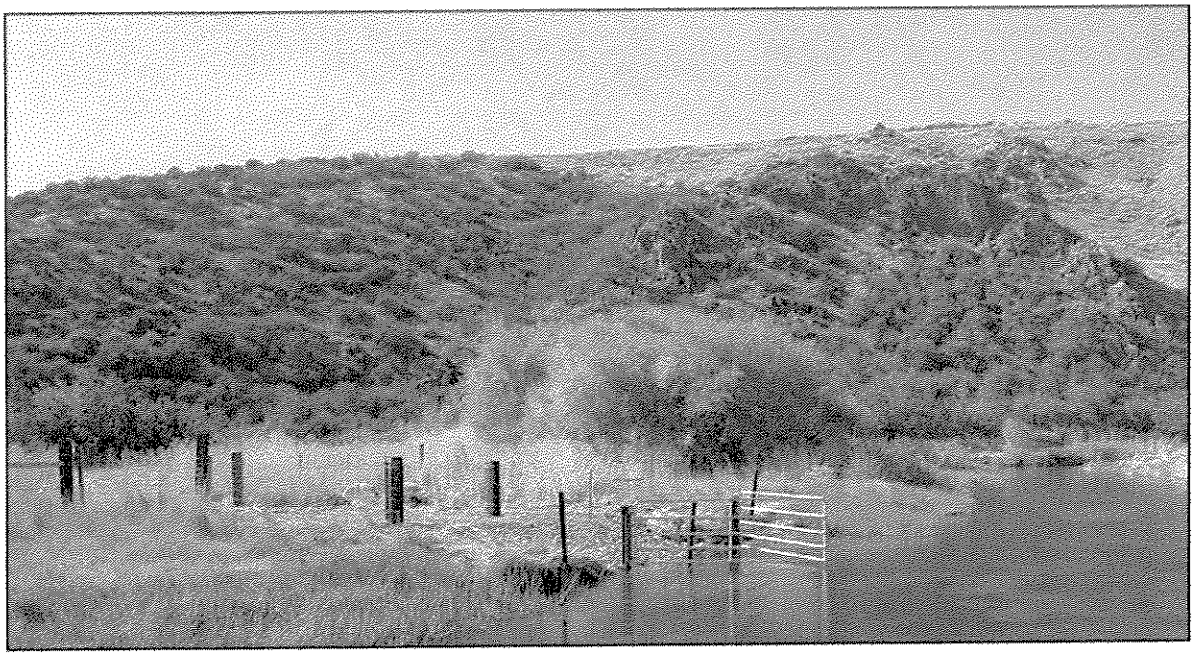
Despite ongoing economic hurdles, those of us living and working in the Shasta Valley are proud of the 16 miles of livestock exclusion fencing we have in place, protecting the riparian zones along the Shasta and its tributaries.

Meamber Ranch, Shasta River near Montague, Calif., 2001. Riparian Fencing completed 1995

Most sites with livestock exclusion fencing have also had supplemental tree planting with local native trees, as part of our ongoing effort to reduce water temperatures through increased shading.

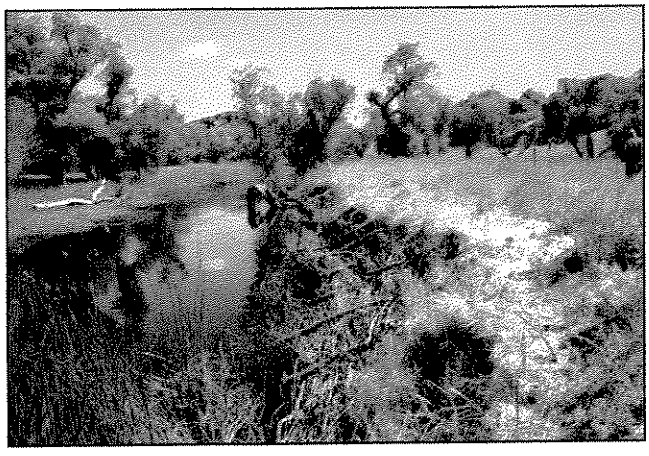
But we haven't stopped there. We have worked out local solutions to providing for livestock watering, whether it be by installing troughs for off-stream water, or where that wasn't feasible,

by creating narrow access lanes to the river, allowing cattle to drink without creating the harm associated with unlimited access to the stream banks.

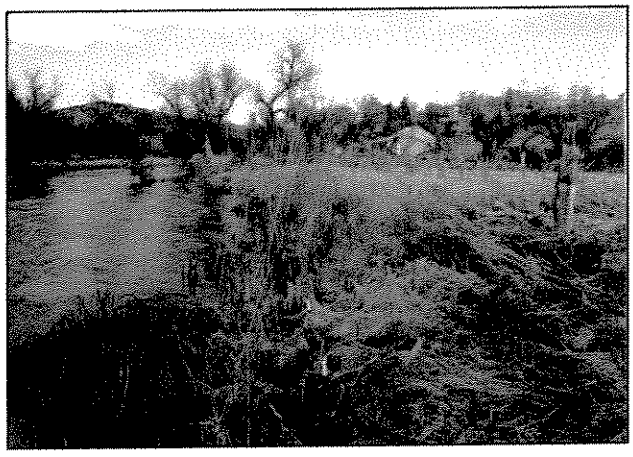


Typical livestock watering access lane in conjunction with riparian livestock exclusion fencing, Parker Ranch, Shasta River, 1994.

Where streambanks were rapidly eroding, and seemed unlikely to heal on their own we developed bioengineered bank stabilization approaches which allow us to stabilize banks for about 10 years using willow wattles. Those ten years provide time for vegetation to return the streambank to a natural dynamic equilibrium of erosion and deposition, without the destructive consequences of rock riprap.



Bioengineered Bank Protection, newly installed on Easton Ranch, Summer, 1993

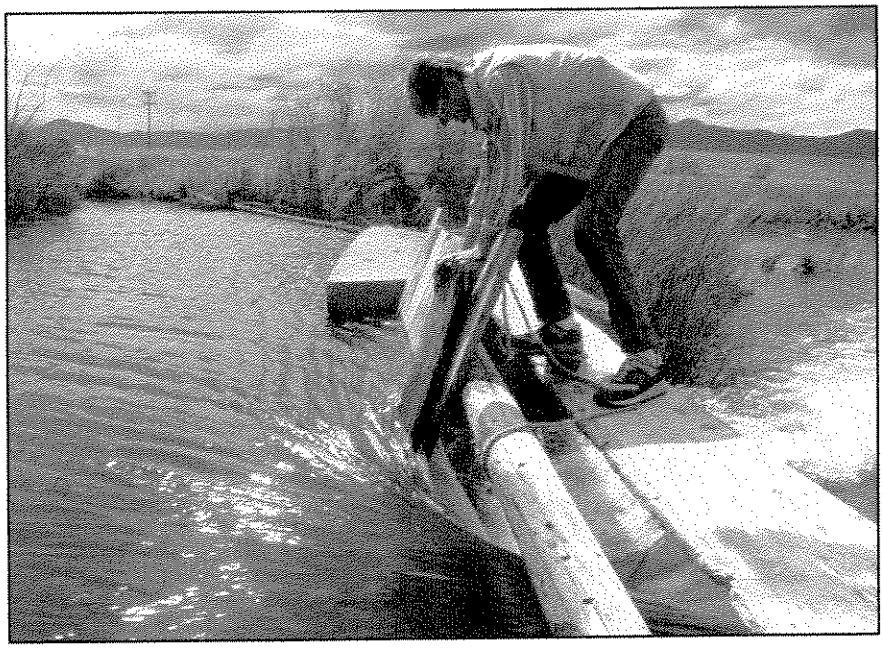


Easton Ranch showing protected bank healed and intact following floods of both 1995 and 1997.

Tailwater capture and infiltration pond, Ekstrom Ranch, 1999

Other landowners have taken additional steps, including owning and maintaining their own fish screens, rather than expecting DFG to carry that load. Some have made substantial investments in capturing and reusing their own or their neighbors irrigation tailwater, in order to protect water quality, and/or to reduce demands on the Shasta River.

On a basin-wide scale, in 1993 we initiated and still continue a program of chinook outmigrant assisting "pulsed flows" in the Shasta, a program where most of the irrigators voluntarily cease all irrigation for two day periods to stimulate the outmigration of fall chinook smolts from the Shasta before water temperatures become too high.

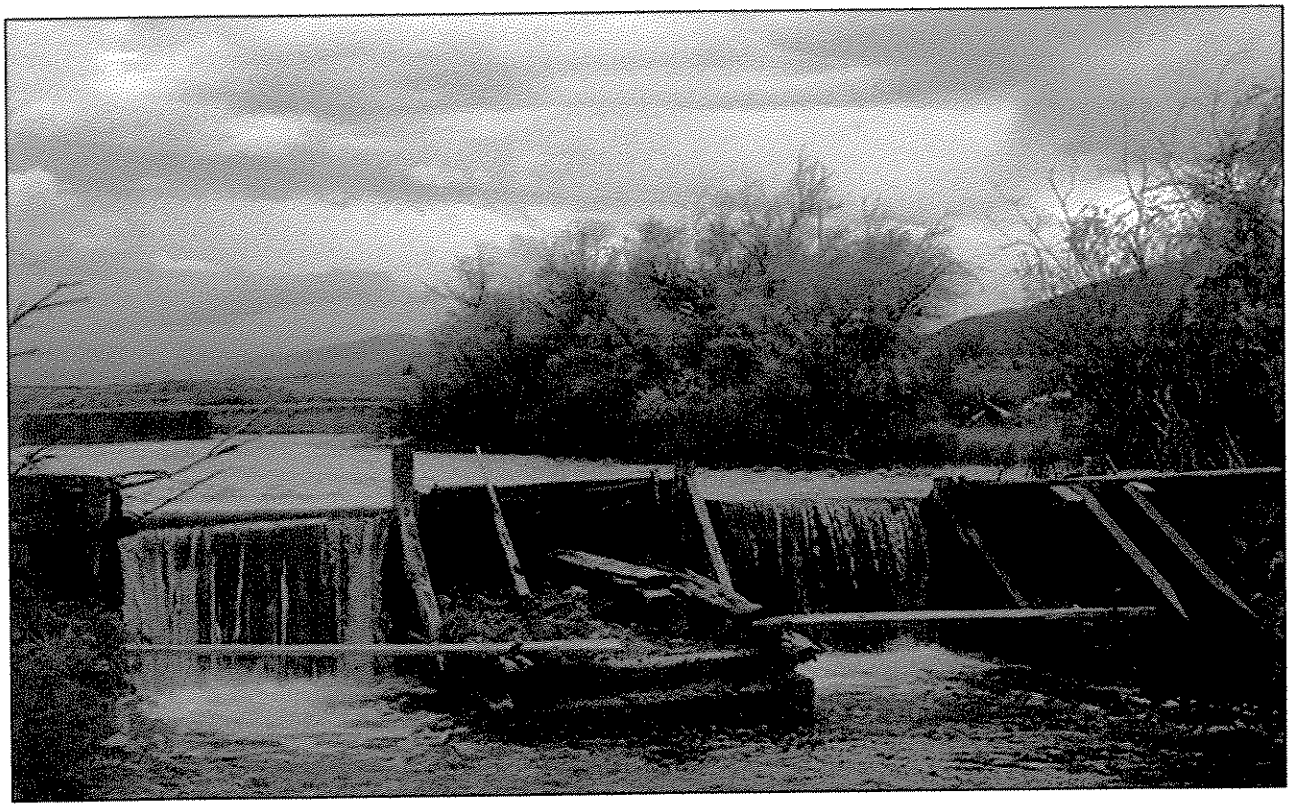


Shasta CRMP Coordinator pulling flashboards at dam on Mariani Ranch, Pulsed Flow 2001.

We intend to continue this program until we can overcome the water-quality and fish passage conditions that make it needed. In that regard, we have underway an engineering evaluation of each of the 5 remaining summer flashboard dams, looking for opportunities to fix their fish passage problems, and reduce the ponding of water that adds to water quality problems, while still meeting their design function. We expect to have that report shortly, and to be seeking funding to begin implementing solutions within this year.

In a major step forward, we have already managed to eliminate the tallest, oldest, and most downstream summer flashboard dam in the system, one that had been serving irrigation needs since 1889. It took a monumental effort, both in terms of forbearance and short term loss of production on the part of the irrigators, and efforts above and beyond the call of duty on the part of the local DFG biologist. But despite the hurdles, the dam has been gone since 1995, successfully replaced with a new fish screen and pump. Overall that effort took the cooperation and financial participation of the DFG, NMFS, USFWS, NRCS, and Fish America Foundation, all initiated, arranged and coordinated by the Shasta CRMP over 6 years.

Only minor measures remain to fully complete this dam removal project. Not only has free fish passage been secured year-around for all life stages in both directions, but water quality, as measured by pre-dawn levels of dissolved oxygen at the site, jumped by 2 milligrams/liter compared to findings before removal.



This dam, which was an impediment to fish passage, and contributor to water quality problems since 1889 has been gone since 1995 through the cooperative efforts of the Shasta CRMP, the landowners, and nearly every agency with an interest in the Shasta River.

In another visionary effort to identify, find and fix factors reducing fish survival, the Shasta CRMP has worked for over five years to secure the funding necessary to create a model defining the complex inter-related factors affecting water temperature, including flow, air temperature, relative humidity, windspeed, and channel width and depth.

Upon completion next year, that model will serve as the long term tool to be used in identifying the most cost-effective locations and methods to address temperature-related water quality problems. And if we are able to secure additional needed funding, we will add to that model all parameters

related to dissolved oxygen levels, allowing us to accurately target the other major factor limiting salmonids in the Shasta system.

Beyond agricultural efforts, we are also working both directly and behind the scenes to address urban water quality issues, and by utilizing the combined efforts of key CRMP members, we now have the cities of Weed, Yreka and Montague all upgrading their sewage treatment facilities in order to improve water quality in the Shasta River.

We have initiated a revival of interest in the Yreka Creek Greenway, which will help keep residents of the largest city in the county interested in the status and health of Yreka Creek, and through it the rest of the Shasta River. We also have an ongoing working relationship with the schools, helping develop field trips and student projects focused on the rivers in the Shasta Valley.

Conclusions and recommendations:
It should be readily apparent that nearly all of these fishery restoration efforts are being done in the context of ongoing agricultural use of the Shasta Valley. Certainly there would be no need to invest in livestock exclusion fencing if there were no livestock, no need to concern ourselves with trying to eliminate flashboard irrigation dams if there was no irrigation. No need for fish screens if people weren't going to continue to divert water.

Siskiyou County has always been unique compared to the rest of California. Our position from high up, from where the Klamath mountains meet the Great Basin country gives us the opportunity to look down over the central valley, to look down towards the coast, towards the rest of California, and to see clearly what changes are coming. And each of us that has chosen to live here has made a conscious decision that we don't like a lot of what we see happening across the rest of the state.

But it's not just happening elsewhere. The writing is on the wall here too. The fact is, agriculture in the Shasta Valley is 'on the ropes'. Economic hardship makes for a great deal of resistance to any change that might undermine the already shaky economics. Yet unless we manage to take effective action on all fronts, the next stage will not include cows or hayfields, but roads and houses. And the fish, the wildlife, you members of the Fish and Game Commission, and we the public will be faced with the insurmountable task of trying to retain some semblance of fish and wildlife habitat in the midst of houses, an effort that has proven largely futile in every urbanizing area across the state.

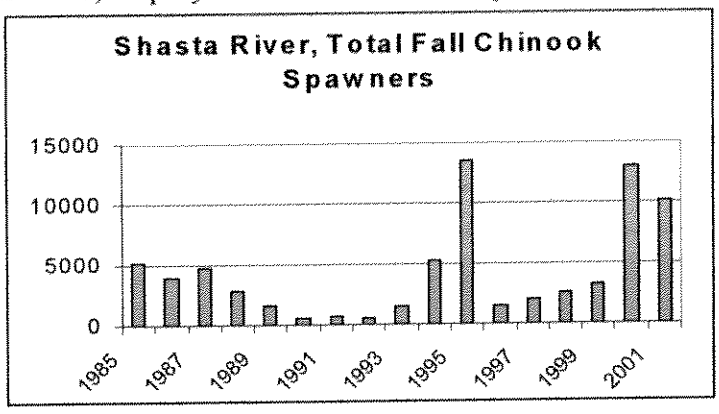
At the upstream limit of coho accessibility, new suburban development encroaches on the wetlands along the Shasta River protected by the Seldom Seen Ranch. 1993

Neither you nor we want to see that happen. We recognize that you have a public trust obligation to

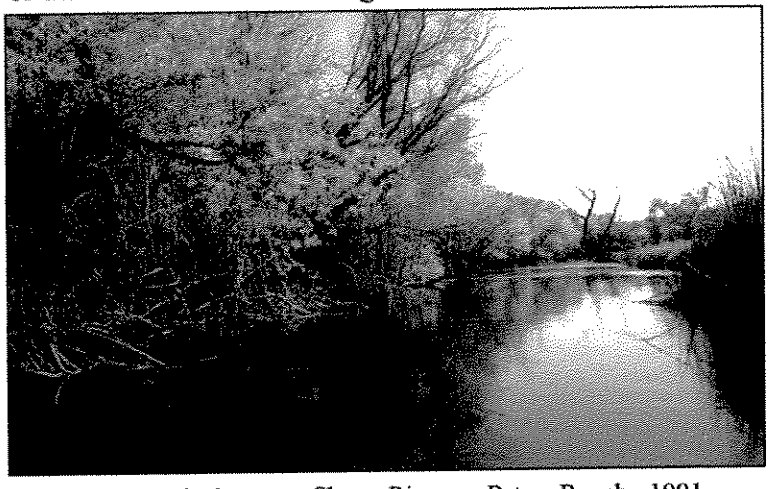
protect species at risk, in this case coho salmon, and that you cannot and should not abrogate that responsibility. At the same time, we're sure you can understand that we want to continue to be able to live here.

We seem to be faced with a situation where the one-size-fits-all approach of simply listing coho as either threatened or endangered for all of Northern California (as the overall numbers seem to call for) will doom most of the fish and wildlife currently residing in the Shasta Valley, just as surely as it will doom the current agricultural economy. If that happens, the people living here will not be served, the public trust will not be served, and all will lose.

In 1992, employees of the Calif. DFG petitioned the Fish and Game Commission to list Fall Chinook in the Shasta River as Threatened when adult numbers fell to 530. Understandably, that too created quite a panic at the time. Eventually DFG proposed, and the Fish and Game Commission accepted, a plan in which the DFG pledged to give fisheries restoration in the Shasta watershed an effort "equivalent of a listing", without actually having the commission take the final step of making the official Threatened designation.



Given the history of fishery restoration accomplishments in the Shasta Watershed, and the likelihood of utter failure for coho if agriculture here is finally pushed over the brink, it seems like a creative approach needs to be crafted, much as was done in 1992.



Coho refugia area—Shasta River on Peters Ranch. 1991

A locally adapted approach to coho restoration based on a mutual agreement of the seriousness of the situation, agreed-upon goals ,targets, and consequences, and a continued willingness to work together would seem to have a far greater likelihood of protecting the public trust in the long run, than does a blanket listing with little or no flexibility. We have a precedent from 1992 that you might follow.

Can we join together in this effort?

Sincerely,

Blair Hart,
Chairman, Shasta CRMP
Attachments

Attachment 5

July 24, 2001

Greetings,

Last week I got a call from Troy Fletcher and Dave Hillemeier of the Yurok Tribe, asking if I could try to set up a meeting with a few representative water users from the Shasta and Scott Valley. The purpose of that meeting would be to begin looking for win-win approaches to meeting the water needs of both agriculture and fish.

There's no question that ongoing events in Klamath Falls have captured every irrigator's attention in both the Shasta and Scott Valleys. Emotions are running high, and it's a difficult time to even talk about water for instream flows. On the other hand, it's now undeniable that disaster can strike, and that Siskiyou County will probably be the next place where the conflicting demands for water are sorted out.

As it stands right now, neither side has any assurances that it can win, or even that a hard-fought win will be worth what it ultimately costs.

The nationwide attention focused on the Klamath Basin gives us:

- An opportunity to seek solutions that we all can live with.
- An opportunity to jointly forward solutions to Congress as part of a basin-wide package designed to assure the continued survival of people both inland and on the coast.
- An opportunity that probably will not present itself again.

We owe it to ourselves, and the future, to find those solutions. This is the time.

Respectfully yours,

David Webb

Attachment: Draft Aug 1 meeting agenda; location :Miners Inn Convention Center. 3:00-5:30

Attachment 6

Shasta River Coordinated Resources Management and Planning Committee

PO Box 459, Montague, Ca 96064

December 4, 2001

Subject: Fish Screens

Greetings,

As most of you have seen in the local newspapers, there appears to be a strong likelihood that coho salmon will be listed by California Fish and Game Commission[1] as a "threatened species" in the Shasta River, as well as in the other rivers throughout the rest of Northern California, sometime next summer. Many of you will also remember that they are already listed as "threatened" under the Federal Endangered Species Act throughout California and Oregon.

While the federal listing has had little effect in the Shasta Valley so far, it appears likely that the anticipated state listing may bring with it far greater local impacts. Any activity that would result in the death of any coho, whether adults or juveniles, could prove to be extremely costly to anyone caught engaging in such an action. One activity that may put an individual at risk is the diversion of irrigation water from the Shasta River without a fish screen.

The Shasta CRMP was formed in 1991 with the goal of protecting the existing agricultural land uses in the Shasta Valley by proactively improving conditions for fish in the Shasta River. Our efforts were instrumental in deflecting a state listing of Fall Chinook salmon in the Shasta River in 1993. We are doing our best to head off this pending state listing of coho also, but whether we are successful in that effort or not, we all must recognize that they are already federally listed, and that sooner or later federal laws are likely to be enforced regardless of what the state does.

In continuing with our proactive role, the Shasta CRMP would like to help any of you who are diverting water from the Shasta River without fish screens to get legally approved fish screens as soon as is possible. Between now and early January, we have an opportunity to apply for grant funding that could pay all or nearly all of the cost of the purchase and installation of fish screens.

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[1] The Fish and Game Commission is a five person board appointed by the governor, and is not the same as the California Department of Fish and Game.

For that to happen, we need to meet individually with any of you who are interested, review the screen designs available, and see what might work for each of you. With luck, many of you could be protected before the coho are listed by the state, and will be equally protected from the provisions of the federal law that is already in place.

The emergency grant funds currently available must be applied for prior to January 11, which leaves us little time in which to proceed.

If this is something you need, now is the time to contact us and take action.

I will be trying to call everyone I can think of who might be interested in a screen as quickly as I can. If you want to jump-start things, call me right away and I will put you at the head of the line.

Respectfully yours,

David Webb
Shasta CRMP Coordinator
530-926-2460

Attachment 7

Dave Webb
Shasta CRMP

Greetings,

A large number of people in the Shasta Valley, both individuals and persons in irrigation districts, rely on diverting water from the Shasta River for use in the irrigation of their crops. There's no question that irrigation is an absolute necessity to maintain almost any level of agricultural productivity here.

While water is a necessity for each of you, you all know that your ability to get it is increasingly at risk, whether from rising costs (electricity), environmental protection (the Clean Water Act), or other legislation (the Endangered Species Act). The Shasta CRMP has been working since 1991 to find ways to help each of you both stay in business and meet the increasingly stringent legal challenges we all face.

Recent events around Klamath Falls and Tule Lake have really driven home the fact that measures to protect endangered species can have devastating effects on farmers and ranchers. And even if the water management measures up there that look likely for this year are changed, by the time that happens it may be too late for a lot of people.

Here in the Shasta Valley, we all know that soon enough we could find ourselves struggling with similar problems.

The sensible thing to do is to anticipate where challenges will predictably arise, and prepare for them.

Nearly everyone that relies on irrigation has some form of dam they put in place each summer. Those dams can truly be said to be the foundation of most of the agricultural economy in the Shasta Valley. At the same time, those dams, and the impoundments they create, appear to be adding to problems for water quality (which will lead to Clean Water Act difficulties) and for fish (leading to Endangered Species Act conflicts). We can ignore these potential difficulties and wait to see what happens[1], or we can take a proactive approach and try to minimize those problems.

A proactive approach would mean looking and see if we have any options at each dam site to either divert without the use of a dam, or if not, to minimize whatever problems those dams may be creating. Equally importantly, if there are no alternatives, be able to solidly document that there aren't any.

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[1] By court order, by 2005 a schedule will be established for the Shasta Valley laying out the steps to be taken and the timeframe they will be taken in to bring the Shasta into compliance with the Clean Water Act. When, where and how the Endangered Species Ace will be played out is anybody's guess.

The Shasta CRMP has hired an Agricultural engineering firm, Cascade Earth Sciences out of Medford to provide the basis of that proactive approach. They are owned by an irrigation company, have a strong background with small irrigation systems, and have successfully been able to design or modify systems to meet the needs of irrigation, clean water and fish.

Cascade Earth Sciences is willing to look at each of the flashboard dams on the Shasta, and evaluate what, if any, options exist to minimize the problems they can potentially create. Those potential problems include:

1. By ponding up the water, they increase the surface area of water exposed to the sun, allowing it to heat up more than it otherwise would.
2. By slowing down the velocity of the water, they increase the number of hours it is exposed to the sun before it exits the Shasta Valley, further increasing the temperature gain.
3. By slowing the water velocity, they create habitat for instream rooted aquatic plants which consume oxygen at night, contributing to lowering dissolved oxygen levels below Clean Water Act standards.
4. They block juvenile fish trying to move upstream as water temperatures rise.
5. They can block adult fish trying to move upstream to spawn.
6. They can block juvenile fish trying to move downstream.

Cascade Earth Sciences will provide us with a report on whatever diversion systems in the Shasta they are allowed to examine, describing what choices might exist at each site. Those choices will range from leaving things exactly the way they are, to making minor modifications, to making major changes, with the cost and benefits for each described.

That report in turn will allow each of you to be better equipped to either: 1) select modifications to do yourselves, 2) allow you to look for financial assistance to pay for changes, or 3) defend a decision to keep things the way they are.

We are in the process of arranging to hold an informational meeting on May 10 in the evening. We will contact each of you soon with the location. Please plan to come, meet with representatives of Cascade Earth Sciences, and decide if it is in your best interests to work with them.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Webb

Shasta CRMP meeting—April 25, 7:00-9:00 pm

NEW LOCATION: Siskiyou County Public Works conference room—305 Butte St., just to the south of the courthouse on the corner of 4th and Butte Streets.

(I don't know why, but there seem to be a lot of meetings going on all over town, and this was the only room I could find!)

Introductions

Summary from last meeting

New business:

News from DFG: Update on fish counts from the screw trap at the mouth of the Shasta

Pulsed Flows this year—will we do it again? Target date May 12 and 13.

Mike Deas Model for the Shasta—goals, needs, status—assistance needed to complete this essential work.

About to begin--Alternative methods of water diversion study—are there economically feasible alternatives to any of the diversion dams now used in the Shasta? Discussion of this preliminary study that is about to begin.—Water quality and fish passage needs will make answers to this very important in the near future.

Other Work planned or in Progress—

Planning:
DWR water quality study—status, goals.

Implementation:
Cowley Fence,
Kuck and Fiock Bank Protection.
Tailwater investigations
Pulsed Flow
Cardoza fish screen
Other fence projects

Monitoring:
Outmigrating fish counts
Water Temperature
Dissolved Oxygen

Other water related news in the basin—Klamath Falls area, Mainstem Klamath, Siskiyou County activities on surface and ground water, harvest plans.—any observations or comments?

Any other.items of interest.

Shasta River CRMP workshop on proposed state listing of the coho salmon and water issues set for September 13th

We have all heard the stories of what has happened around Tule Lake and Klamath Falls this summer. Things have quieted down a little bit up there lately, but that in no way indicates that anything has been fixed, or taken care of. The one message that seems to be coming home in the Shasta Valley is a very ominous "This could happen to me" feeling. Well, the truth is that it is potentially happening to you in several forums already, which most of us in the Shasta Valley are only barely aware of, if at all.

The first of these forums is the court ordered mediation process underway in Oregon. This was an effort ordered by the courts to try to find a more fair way to meet ESA mandated water needs of Klamath Lake suckers and Klamath River coho, without it all coming out of the water customarily supplied by the Bureau of Reclamation to farmers. Those discussions seem to be evolving (predictably) towards spreading the load through the entire Klamath Basin, which includes the Shasta River.

A second arena where water in the Shasta Valley is likely to become a significant issue very soon is with the pending state listing of coho as endangered. As you all know, the Federal government already listed coho in the Klamath and its tributaries as threatened. So far, that has had little on-the-ground effect. If (as seems likely) they find coho to be threatened or endangered throughout the Klamath Basin in terms of the California Endangered Species Act, then we can expect to see changes in the actions of some state employees. In particular game wardens in the Department of Fish and Game, and water masters in the Department of Water Resources are going to find themselves at odds on instream flows.

Then there are the as yet to be defined "tribal trust" water needs to support some level of ongoing salmon production and harvest. Exactly what they are is anybody's guess, but demands to meet them are going to be heard in the near future too.

Over the course of the last month, there have been several more-or-less invitation only scoping meetings involving some Shasta and Scott Valley ranchers, and either the Yurok Tribe or the DFG. Those meetings took on the flavor of a last ditch effort to try to find win-win and cooperative approaches to resolving everyone's conflicting needs, before another Klamath Falls type disaster is visited on us. The general feeling is that if there is anything that money can do to minimize impacts, make more water available, or in any other way help, then this is the time to ask the state or federal governments for that money.

The August 29th Shasta CRMP meeting for the general public, involved over 100 local people posing questions to DFG, DWR, Yurok and Karuk representatives. This meeting produced a list of 71 questions that have been given to the DFG for written answers. The Siskiyou County Supervisors meeting on September 4th allowed more comments and concerns to be expressed. The Shasta CRMP September 13th meeting will be held at the Yreka Community Center at 7PM. The community center is located at 810 N Oregon in Yreka. The time to discuss the answers to the questions, and begin formulating solutions has arrived. The Shasta CRMP is made up of local landowners. You are encouraged to come and express your ideas and solutions. There are solutions to these questions! Come to the meeting and help find the answers. Where things go from here is up to us.

For more information on the September 13th Shasta River CRMP and followup to the September 4th supervisors meeting, call Richard Christie at 842-6121 ext 106.

The 2001 irrigation season has come to a close. It is time to think seriously about the upcoming year and the potential Coho listing. The Shasta River CRMP is having a meeting November 27 to discuss the future. The Department of Fish and Game is anxious to assist irrigators in avoiding "take" should a listing happen. The DFG believes it will have money for fish screens (and other projects protecting coho) available by next March. Any irrigator on the Shasta River, or lower 5 miles of Parks Creek that does not have a fish screen on a diversion should come to this meeting.

Shasta River CRMP now has the responses of the DFG to the questions raised at the two public meetings we recently held. If you do not already have a copy they are available at the NRCS office at 215 Executive Ct in Yreka, or call Richard Christie at 842-6121 ext106.
I hope to see you at the meeting.

Shasta CRMP Agenda—Nov. 27,2001 7:00 P.M., Yreka Community Center, 810 N. Oregon St., Yreka

7:00 Introductions

7:15 Old business:
- Fall Chinook numbers, Coho and Steelhead indicators--DFG
- Update on study looking at alternatives to existing flash-board diversion structures—Dave Webb
- Follow-up on DFG answers to questions raised at public meetings
- Update on state coho listing process, reminder of federal listed status.

8:15 New Business:
- Report on statement to Fish and Game Commission re coho listing—Blair Hart
- Report on Water Quality observations this summer—Webb
- Report on Dick Dickerson Tour—Blair Hart

- Report on status of Deas Flow/Temperature model. What remains to be done, what can we do next year to improve the final product.—Dave Webb and Jim Whelan
- Discussion on water preparedness measures for next year—ramping at startup, other water management, pulsed flows, protecting the adjudication, water quality protection, increased gaging in Shasta, other?
- Emergency DFG funding possibility—for measures to protect diverters from coho "take" including fish screens and fish passage provisions; possibly funding for longer term measures also, including riparian fencing, tailwater management, planting for shade and bank stabilization, etc.
- Klamath Shasta Water Transfer—overview of what it is and how it might be done. Steps to be taken.
- Other new business

9:30 Adjourn

Attachment 12

Preliminary brainstorming meeting regarding restoration of the Shasta and Scott Rivers

Invited persons from the Shasta Valley, Scott Valley, and Yurok Tribe.

Aug 1, 2001 3-5:30 p.m.—Miners Inn Convention Center

I. Introductions

II. Review/Modify Agenda

III. Flow Issues-- Is there a problem to be solved? If so, what does it consist of?

a. Brief discussion of changes over time in Klamath, Shasta and Scott River flows, and possible/probable consequences to salmon and steelhead and the people who rely on them.

b. b. Discussion— what scientifically based approaches could be used to develop possible instream flow targets that will serve all resource users as well as possible?

c. Discussion--Potential alternatives for achieving increased instream flows—first cut at pros and cons of each, possible time frames and mechanisms for each, and listing of further investigations needed prior to any decisions for each:

i. Improved efficiency of distribution and use for irrigation,
ii. Groundwater substitution for either irrigation or instream flows,
iii. Klamath River water import to substitute for irrigation withdrawals from the Shasta,
iv. Short term and long term water purchase
v. Drought year response planning and implementation.

IV. Potential large scale restoration of the Klamath Basin, including Shasta and Scott Rivers

a. what might this look like, and are there any benefits possible to landowners and other residents far removed from substantial fish harvest?
b. How can we create permanent incentives to assure long-term sustainability for any restoration actions taken?

V. Non-flow related restoration needs of the Shasta and Scott Rivers

a. For the benefit of fish
b. To meet the needs and desires of the residents of the Scott and Shasta Valleys.

VI. Joint recommendation of group and/or future action/meetings.

ATTACHMENT 15

9/7/01
SISKIYOU DAILY NEWS

Attn: Pat Arnold

Shasta River CRMP workshop on proposed state listing of the coho salmon and water issues set for September 13th

We have all heard the stories of what has happened around Tule Lake and Klamath Falls this summer. Things have quieted down a little bit up there lately, but that in no way indicates that anything has been fixed, or taken care of. The one message that seems to be coming home in the Shasta Valley is a very ominous "This could happen to me" feeling. Well, the truth is that it is potentially happening to you in several forums already, which most of us in the Shasta Valley are only barely aware of, if at all.

The first of these forums is the court ordered mediation process underway in Oregon. This was an effort ordered by the courts to try to find a more fair way to meet ESA mandated water needs of Klamath Lake suckers and Klamath River coho, without it all coming out of the water customarily supplied by the Bureau of Reclamation to farmers. Those discussions seem to be evolving (predictably) towards spreading the load through the entire Klamath Basin, which includes the Shasta River.

A second arena where water in the Shasta Valley is likely to become a significant issue very soon is with the pending state listing of coho as endangered. As you all know, the Federal government already listed coho in the Klamath and its tributaries as threatened. So far, that has had little on-the-ground effect. If (as seems likely) they find coho to be threatened or endangered throughout the Klamath Basin in terms of the California Endangered Species Act, then we can expect to see changes in the actions of some state employees. In particular game wardens in the Department of Fish and Game, and water masters in the Department of Water Resources are going to find themselves at odds on instream flows.

Then there are the as yet to be defined "tribal trust" water needs to support some level of ongoing salmon production and harvest. Exactly what they are is anybody's guess, but demands to meet them are going to be heard in the near future too.

Over the course of the last month, there have been several more-or-less invitation only scoping meetings involving some Shasta and Scott Valley ranchers, and either the Yurok Tribe or the DFG. Those meetings took on the flavor of a last ditch effort to try to find win-win and cooperative approaches to resolving everyone's conflicting needs, before another Klamath Falls type disaster is visited on us. The general feeling is that if there is anything that money can do to minimize impacts, make more water available, or in any other way help, then this is the time to ask the state or federal governments for that money.

The August 29th Shasta CRMP meeting for the general public, involved over 100 local people posing questions to DFG, DWR, Yurok and Karuk representatives. This meeting produced a list of 71 questions that have been given to the DFG for written answers. The Siskiyou County Supervisors meeting on September 4th allowed more comments and concerns to be expressed. The Shasta CRMP September 13th meeting will be held at the Yreka Community Center at 7PM. The community center is located at 810 N Oregon in Yreka. The time to discuss the answers to the questions, and begin formulating solutions has arrived. The Shasta CRMP is made up of local landowners. You are encouraged to come and express your ideas and solutions. There are solutions to these questions! Come to the meeting and help find the answers. Where things go from here is up to us.

For more information on the September 13th Shasta River CRMP and followup to the September 4th supervisors meeting, call Richard Christie at 842-6121 ext 106.

ATTACHMENT 16

War

Continued from page 2

According to an April 26, 1999 Greg Hanscom article in the *High Country News* entitled "Visionaries or Dreamers?" the vision of the Wilderness Project was birthed by Dave Foreman, then leader of EarthFirst, over a bottle of tequila by "a group of die-hard environmentalists determined to wage war against industrial society in the name of Mother Earth."

Foreman actually began the Wilderness Project organization in 1991 as an alliance of "high powered scientists and activists."

Hanscom said, "The project's goals were as ambitious and arrogant as its founders: to stitch together the roaded, subdivided landscape of North America and create a place where wolves, grizzly bears, and other native wildlife could live as they had 500 years ago."

In describing his own goals, Foreman said he envisions wilderness areas so wild and inhospitable to man that in entering them man would become the hunted and his life would be in danger from grizzly bears, mountain lions, and wolves.

DAILY NEWS PHOTO/LORI SELLS

Ed Wilson of Fastlane Espresso Popcorn Video says it sometimes be a battle to stay in business in Yreka.

"Open competition is good for all," Dean said. "Wal-Mart brought all kinds of money into this town and you'd be hard-pressed to find any businesses that closed down as a result. ...Blockbuster could be the exception, though. We've lost at least one video store as a result."

Yreka City Manager Stan Eisner said there are definite legal problems that could arise when a city tries to keep certain kinds of businesses away. Although certain areas can be zone specific, the city government cannot prohibit a business from locating in Yreka, Eisner said.

"The only limitations are in zoning and in land use controls," E said. "But you can't make every subject to a use permit."

Eisner, who used to work fo planning department in San Obispo, said he witnessed first how a city could actively work t tect its downtown merchants. ever, he said the legality of actions could be called into ques

"For years, the city of San never allowed any shopping ma come in," Eisner said. "They dic by not zoning for commercial outside of the downtown area.

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